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Hotel: New Day, thru Saturday.

Mister Kelly's, 1028 N. Rush St.: Erroll Garner opens Monday for two weeks.

Mother's, 26 W. Division St.: End Game, rock group, opens Tuesday for six nights.

Otto's, 2024 N. Halsted St.: Odetta opens Wednesday for five nights, with Sam Leopold as second act.

Pierre's, Holiday Inn-Lake Shore, 644 N. Lake Shore Dr.: The Dandys, thru March 1.

Playboy Club, 919 N. Michigan Av.: Sonny King, singing comic, and Zia, belly dancer, thru March 1.

Quiet Knight, 953 W. Belmont Av.: Kinky Friedman, Wednesday thru Sunday, with Corky Siegel as second act.

Wild Onion, Hyatt Regency Chicago: The Commonwealth, Tuesdays thru Saturdays until March 1.

Wise Fools Pub, 2270 N. Lincoln Av.: Otis Rush, Wednesday thru Saturday; Dave Remington's bands on Mondays; Forefront, Tuesdays.

Yellow Unicorn, 868 N. State St.: Brian Gill, Friday and Saturday.

Yorkshire Room, Park Lane Hotel: Jeanne Lambert, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday.

## CLUBS/Suburban

Allgauer's, Northbrook: On Stage Majority, thru March 1.

Amazing Grace, Evanston: Randy Newman and Ry Cooper, Wednesday and Thursday; Vassar Clements, Friday thru Sunday.

Blue Max, Hyatt Regency O'Hare: Barbi Benton, thru Saturday.

Brass Rail Lounge, Sheraton O'Hare Inn: Judy Storey and her trio thru Saturday.

Carson Inn, Nordic Hills, Itasca: The Wilderness, Fridays and Saturdays thru March 29.

Field's Restaurant, Oak Lawn: Dave Major and the Minors, Wednesday thru March 16.

Golden Eagle Lounge, Arlington Heights: Billy Pierce and the Odyssey, Tuesday thru Saturday until March 15.

Greenhouse Lounge, Palatine: Connie and Jerry K, Tuesday thru Saturday to May 3.

Iron Skillet, Algonquin: The Reformed Bootlegger Jazz Band, Thursdays only.

Mill Run Theater, Niles: Will reopen March 10 with Sammy Davis, Jr.

## Coins

# The 20-centers soar in value

By Roger Boye

**TO A MERCHANT** in the 1870s, the 20-cent piece was anything but the keepsake it is today.

After it first appeared in 1875, the coin was scorned because it looked almost like the quarter-dollar coin of that day. Merchants and the general public so complained about the similarity that the coin was discontinued by the U.S. Mint after 1878.

The 20-cent piece of 1875, for example, was only slightly smaller than the quarter-dollar coin of that year, had a plain edge rather than a quarter's reeded edge, and had the same obverse design of the Seated Liberty that

appeared on the quarter.

Today, however, the 20-cent piece is a popular collector's item. Even the most common, the 1875-S [S for the San Francisco Mint], with a mintage of 1.2 million, sells for about \$40 in good condition and more than \$500 in uncirculated condition. [Compare the mintage figure to the 34.7 million quarters or the 3.7 billion cents minted in Philadelphia in 1973.]

The rarest 20-cent piece is the 1876-CC [CC for the Carson City, Nev., Mint]. Some 10,000 were minted, but most were believed to have been melted by the Mint. Fewer than 14 are known to exist today. Selling price for an authentic, uncirculated spec-

imen would probably top \$50,000.

The 20-cent piece is not the only extinct U.S. minor coin. The coinage act of 1792 authorized a copper half-cent which was minted until 1857. By the mid-19th century, this unpopular coin had been priced out of a job, the victim of inflation.

The most common half-cent pieces sell for at least \$12 in good condition in most Chicago area coin shops.

The two-cent piece, first minted in 1864, proved popular with the public, but was discontinued nine years later because it was deemed an unnecessary denomination. A very good, common-date specimen of this coin, the first to carry the motto "In

Obverse of 1875 20-cent piece

"God We Trust," sells for about \$6.

Three-cent pieces were issued in two designs and compositions: a silver variety from 1851 until 1873, and the nickel variety from 1865 until 1889. The silver variety is more valuable today a common date selling for at least \$8 in good condition.

Another extinct coin provided for in the 1792 law is the half-dime, minted from 1794 until 1873. This silver coin was valued at five cents, altho most collectors would happily pay at least \$4 today for even a common date in good condition.

